

April 16, 2009

**OBEY IN ABBOTSFORD, LADYSMITH & CORNELL
FOR UPDATES ON AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

ABBOTSFORD, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Abbotsford, Ladysmith and Cornell today for an update on how those school districts will be using their portions of the \$856,000 in after-school funding that he secured for the CESA 10 After-School Program Consortium in the omnibus appropriations bill that was recently signed into law.

Abbotsford, Ladysmith and Cornell are three of the 18 school districts in Obey's Congressional District that work with CESA 10 to provide after-school services.

“Even in the best of times, afterschool projects are a good way to give kids the extra help they need to keep from falling behind in school. In times like these, they are especially important because families are in more turmoil, parents are working more hours, and these programs help provide supervised activities to keep kids safe and out of trouble,” Obey said. “That's why we pushed for more funding for after-school centers in the budget and why I asked for these funds to help continue these after school programs here in Wisconsin.”

“There is nothing more important for the future of our children than a good education,” Obey added. “Offering extra help with homework, advanced tutoring and an adult-supervised safe-haven free of trouble, these after-school programs should help provide students a solid foundation for long-term success and a constructive alternative to channel their energies throughout the school year and summer.”

The federal funds Obey secured are intended to help CESA 10 provide a safe, healthy, enriching, supervised after-school environment for children in Abbotsford, Bruce, Chippewa Falls, Cornell, Gilman, Ladysmith-Hawkins, Medford, New Auburn and Thorp. Since parental involvement is one of the keys to a student's academic success, the program is also designed to strengthen the community - family - school partnership.

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